

REMARKS

Claim 2 is currently pending in the present Application, with claims 3-4 standing withdrawn pursuant to the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed December 10, 2004.

In the foregoing amendments, claims 3-4 have been canceled without prejudice to the subject matter therein, in order to allow this case to pass to issue.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite due to antecedent basis issues, but allowable if amended to address these issues. In response to this rejection, the Applicant has amended claim 2 to both address the antecedent basis issues, and to clarify the claim language.

In response to the Examiner's concern regarding the identification of the compressor stages, the Applicant notes that the recited multi-stage compression section includes two stage compression sections: a radially-outer preceding section (*e.g.*, in Fig. 4, the outer spiral portion of the multi-stage compression section (includes area S1), and an inner succeeding section (*e.g.*, in Fig. 4, the radially inner spiral portion (includes S6).

The Applicant notes that no further compression stages are identified. Rather, the language in the second subparagraph of claim 2 describes the arrangement of the lap groove by referring to features *at the beginning and end regions* of the two compression section stages (*e.g.*, referring to the discharge port at a "final stage compression *space*" of the preceding stage compression section). These arrangements are described in the same manner in the specification, and

thus the Applicant respectfully submits that no further amendment to claim 2 is required in order for the claim to be considered definite by one of ordinary skill in the art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests the pending § 112, second paragraph rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

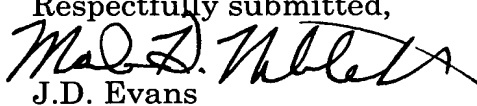
CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for this claim is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #029379.50530D2).

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Respectfully submitted,

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